



Tips for Summer Success

Summer 2014

Montana Summer Food Report Card

**Erin Carlstrom,
Montana Food Bank Network**

Each year, the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) creates the Montana Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Report Card as a way of examining how the program is being utilized in each county throughout the state. During the summer of 2013, the SFSP served a total of 93,161 meals in Montana which is a 14 percent increase over the previous summer.

MFBN would like to recognize these eight sponsors who had a 50-100 percent meal increase between 2012-2013:

**Great Falls Community Food Bank
St Labre High School (Big Horn County Sites)
Arrowhead School
Boys & Girls Club of Northern Cheyenne Nation
Kalispell Public Schools
Sheridan Elementary School
Boulder Elementary School
Box Elder Elementary School**



**Find
Sites
Near You**

Visit

[www.mfbn.org/
summerfoodmt](http://www.mfbn.org/summerfoodmt)

Text

**"Lunch"
to 877-877**

Scan



Grant Support for Sponsors

**Jessi Sheava,
Montana No Kid Hungry**

Montana No Kid Hungry will have summer meal program mini-grants available again this year to mainly support new outreach strategies. The mini-grants will also be open to new sites, adding a site, adding a meal, expanding days of operation, and addressing transportation. The online mini-grant applications are expected to open in mid-March. A few mini-grants have been awarded to pay for VISTA Summer Associates for sponsors that ex-

pressed interest and submitted strong plans to build capacity at a local level.

Share Our Strength just recently released a very helpful grant compilation memo. This compilation of existing grant funds can be helpful for the summer meals program sponsor to expand organizational capacity, invest in equipment, provide quality programming, and improve meal quality, among others. The grants are directed at summer programming, summer meals programs, organization capacity, and program implementation. To download

the memo, visit <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals> and under the "Resources" column (on the right) click on "Summer Meals Grants Memo."

If you have any questions about grants and funding, please contact Lisa Lee at 406-444-3518 or Lee@mt.gov.



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



What

2014 Summer Summit:
Growing Summer Food Programs

Where

Best Western Great Northern Hotel
Helena, MT

Summit Highlights

Opening Remarks from Governor Bullock · Raffle ·
Required Training for Sponsors · SFSP Best Practices
· Time to Share Ideas with Sponsors from Around
Montana · And Much More!

April 24 **April 25**
1:00 to 5:00 8:00 to 12:00

2014

Cultivate Awareness: Community Outreach Calendar for the SFSP

Jessi Sheava,
Montana No Kid Hungry



AmeriCorps volunteers
promoting a Summer
Food site in Missoula.

Getting the word out about your summer food site is a great way to increase participation. Montana No Kid Hungry has a great new resource that will equip you with every tool you need to successfully market your summer meals program and increase participation.

The “Cultivate Awareness: Community Outreach Calendar” by Montana No Kid Hungry is an April through August calendar

loaded with innovative outreach ideas, resources to go with each, and customizable templates. The outreach activities range from customizing flyers, canvassing local organizations and working with the media to kick off events and parent meal days. There is a track to follow for new sponsors to the summer meals program, intermediate sponsors, and sponsors who have been operating the program for some time now. These three different tracks make it easy for the sponsor, regardless of how many resources you currently have to perform outreach that will successfully advertise your program.

What we’ve noticed through our

conversations and research is the earlier you start advertising, the more kids will show up when you open your site(s) at the beginning of the summer! The online outreach calendar will be available on the Montana No Kid Hungry and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) School Nutrition Programs websites in early April.

For more information and any questions, please contact Jessi Sheava at 406-444-3925 or JSheava@mt.gov or Lisa Lee at 406-444-3518



Cooking Up Farm to School and Summer Food

Aubree Roth
Farm to School Coordinator

Farm to school programs are taking the nation, and Montana, by a delicious and fun storm! The powerful connection between food producers and children doesn't have to stop when the last bell of the school year rings. Summer Feeding Programs are perfectly situated in our short Montana growing season to take advantage of the summer bounty of produce. Further, school gardens and community garden sites certainly need summer helpers. Gardens are a great way to provide hands-on experiential education and promote healthy eating habits. Kids love to eat the food that they helped to grow and/or prepare. Here are a few tips to get you started:

Get connected. Find school gardens or community gardens in your area. Are they close by the feeding site? Are they already operating summer programs? Can they use the extra hands? Do they need any extra supplies to accommodate the children from your program? Is there a gardening club or any Master Gardeners in your area to provide guidance or assistance? If you are looking for local produce, check the farmers

market or listings of food producers in Montana.

Safety first! Food safety is paramount for your program. Ensure that any food, whether from a local farm or a school garden, has been grown and handled using safe food practices. Use the *Buying Local Food Guide* checklist and/or the *Food Safety in the Garden* document for more recommendations (these and other resources are available at opi.mt.gov/Farm2School).



Montana Farm to School in Action

Make a plan. This seems obvious, but make a plan before you embark of what you need, who is assigned to what task, and how you will ensure a safe and fun summer of eating or

growing local food. Don't let your garden die because no one was assigned to water during the week of July 4! Make sure you set an ordering and delivery schedule with local farmers in advance of the growing season. Be realistic and flexible with local foods, and consider having some items as samples if the quantity or consistency does not fit your needs for your meals.

Share, please. Already integrating school gardens or local foods into your Summer Feeding Program? Just getting started? Let us know, we want to hear your story including your success and your challenges!

Information and resources are available online at opi.mt.gov/Farm2School or by contacting Aubree Roth, Farm to School Coordinator at:
aubree.roth@montana.edu
or 406-994-5996.

MT SFSP Activity Toolkit

Jessi Sheava,
Montana No Kid Hungry

Providing activities at your summer meals program is one way sponsors can draw more kids in and keep kids coming throughout the summer. Last year, the fun activity toolkit was released to all sites and sponsors to help with planning activity programming. Included in the toolkit are all sorts of innovative activity ideas designed with every child in mind: activities and websites,



community resources, giveaways, monthly activity calendars, activity instructions, and volunteer networks.

Please take advantage of this great resource to enhance your SFSP activity programming.

You can find the Activity Guide here: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/Summer/13SFSPActivityToolkit.pdf>

Meal Patterns Stay the Same for 2014

BREAKFAST

8 oz Fluid Milk

1/2 c Fruit and/or Vegetable

1 oz Grain

Optional: 1 oz Meat/Meat Alternate

LUNCH

3/4c Fruit and Vegetable
(at least two different types)

2 oz Meat/Meat Alternate

1 oz Grain

8 oz Fluid Milk

SFSP Required Training 2014

It's that time of year again. All SFSP sponsors must register for and attend the SFSP required training. Please call the OPI with questions. Registration forms will be sent out soon!

May 7	Frazer
May 8	Havre
May 13	Hardin
May 14	Billings
May 16	Missoula
May 20	Kalispell
May 21	Butte
May 22	Helena



2014 USDA Policy Updates

Check out the new SFSP Policy's by visiting: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/policy>

- SFSP 01-2014** Sponsors Operating in Multiple States in the Summer Food Service Program REISSUED
- SFSP 02-2014** Mobile Feeding Options in Summer Feeding Program
- SFSP 03-2014** Census Data Release: Fiscal Year 2014
- SFSP 04-2014** Promoting Nutrition in Summer Meals
- SFSP 05-2014** Use of School and Census Data
- SFSP 06-2014** Available Flexibilities for CACFP At-risk Sponsors and Centers Transitioning to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- SFSP 07-2014** Available Flexibilities for CACFP At-risk Sponsors and Centers Transitioning to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- SFSP 08- 2014** Meal Service Requirements
- SFSP 09-2014** Summer Food Service Program Questions and Answers 2014
- SFSP 10-2014** Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs
- SFSP 11 -2014** Effective Date of Free or Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations
- SFSP 12- 2014** Guidance on Income Eligibility Determinations and Duration -REISSUED
- SFSP 13-2014** Procurement Thresholds in the Summer Food Service Program
- SFSP 16-2014** Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Feeding Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat Revised Q & As

2014 Reimbursement Rates

	<i>Rural or Self-Preparation Sites</i>	<i>Urban or Vended Sites</i>
Breakfast	\$2.0225	\$1.9850
Lunch/Supper	\$3.5450	\$3.4875
Snack	\$0.8400	\$0.8225

Have an excellent summer!

If you have questions about any of the information in this newsletter, please contact OPI School Nutrition Programs at 406-444-2501 or visit:

http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/Summer.html

